Rise in Unemployment

2436. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unemployment is gradually on the rise all over the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are being taken to control unemployment in the country;

(d) the number of unemployed in the country as on the 31st March, 2002; and

(e) what is the impact of Government's disinvestments policy *vis-a-vis* unemployment problem in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through Labour Force Surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation from time to time. As per these surveys, estimated number of unemployed persons in the country based on Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS) approach has marginally gone up from about 7.5 million in 1993-94 to 9.0 million in 1999-2000. Lack of growth of the economy at the desired rate and the mismatch in the demand and supply of manpower in the labour market are some of the major reasons for increase in unemployment.

(c) The Tenth Plan will focus on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it will be one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of the 10th Plan would lay emphasis on the rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

(d) Estimated number of unemployed persons as on January, 2000 based on Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS) approach was of the order of 9 million.

(e) So far, there has been no retrenchment in any of the public sector enterprises which have been privatized through the process of disinvestment. Strategic disinvestments of public sector undertakings with transfer of management control to strategic partners do not normally affect the status of employment since the employees of the public sector undertakings continue to remain in employment even after disinvestments of the PSUs, subject to the agreements entered into between the Government and the strategic partners.

Eradication of Child Labour

2437. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to raise allocation for eradication of child labour during the current plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the comparative increase in allocation from the previous plan period;

(c) whether the targets of eradication of child labour in the country during the previous plan was achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the present target of eradication of child labour during the current plan period and the effective steps taken to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) In the Ninth Plan period the total allocation of funds for Child Labour Schemes was Rs. 249.60 Crore. A proposal for an enhanced allocation for the Tenth Plan has been made. The Planning Commission has not yet indicated the total provision of funds for the above Schemes for the Tenth Plan Period.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Labour has been implementing the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) for the rehabilitation of working children. The major objective under the Scheme is the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work by linking them with the formal school system, after keeping them in special schools set up under the projects for a